

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Pending claims 1-3 have been examined and are rejected.¹ Specifically, claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,476,568 to Urakabe et al. (hereinafter “Urakabe”). Applicant traverses this grounds of rejection as follows.

II. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Applicant amends claim 1 to further clarify operation of the discharge lamp lighting device. As amended, claim 1 is directed to a discharge lamp lighting device including a unique combination of features.

For example, in claim 1, an inverter inverts the polarity of a sum of a negative voltage boosted by said DC/DC converter and a positive voltage given from said DC source to generate an AC wave, which is then received by an igniter that supplies a high voltage to power the discharge lamp. Thus, the discharge lamp is supplied with both electric power of a negative voltage (-DC), which is boosted by the DC/DC converter, and electric power of a positive voltage (+DC) provided by the DC source, wherein the negative voltage (-DC) and the positive voltage (+DC) are added to give a DC output, which in turn is converted into an AC.

¹ The Office Action contains an obvious typographical error in that it lists claims 1-12 as being rejected (Office Action: page 2).

The Examiner alleges that Urakabe discloses these features of claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

As an initial matter, Applicant notes that the Examiner fails to state with any particularity how Urakabe discloses the features of claim 1. Instead, the Examiner merely references some common elements (*e.g.*, a discharge lamp) and then cites to vast portions of Urakabe (*see, e.g.*, Office Action: page 2, *citing* Urakabe: Figs. 1-16; col. 5, lines 4-67; and col. 26, lines 1-52), without providing a reasoned explanation of the Examiner's reliance on Urakabe in rejecting claim 1.

Indeed, it is respectfully submitted that Urakabe fails to disclose or suggest a discharge lamp lighting device, wherein the discharge lamp is supplied with both electric power of a negative voltage boosted by the DC/DC converter and electric power of a positive voltage from the DC source. To the contrary, in Urakabe, electric power supplied from the DC power supply 1 is adjusted by the DC/DC converter 2 (Urakabe: Abstract; and Fig. 1), such that the electric power supplied to the discharge lamp 12 does not include a portion having a negative voltage (and being boosted by the DC/DC converter) and a portion having a positive voltage provided by the DC power supply 1 (*i.e.*, unadjusted by the DC/DC converter 2). Instead, in Urakabe, only a DC output boosted by a DC/DC converter is converted into an AC.

Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by Urakabe. Consequently, claims 2 and 3 are not anticipated by Urakabe at least by virtue of their dependency.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/633,693
Attorney Docket No. Q76774

III. Formal Matters

A. Priority

The Examiner acknowledges Applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, including receipt of the priority document.

B. Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner provides a signed and initialed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08 submitted with Applicant's IDS filed on August 5, 2003, thereby indicating consideration of the references cited therein.

C. Drawings

Applicant submits concurrently herewith replacement sheets for Figs. 5, 6 and 7, each of which has been amended to include a *Related Art* legend.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: November 18, 2004

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant submits herewith replacement sheets for Figs. 5, 6 and 7, each of which has been amended to include a *Related Art* legend.

Attachment: Two Replacement Sheets